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5. We are now teaching a six-week Norwegian reading course. Under normal circumstances the Language School does not offer Norwegian, nor have we had any requests for it in recent years. We have teaching materials and tapes, however, and both of our Swedish instructors have a solid reading knowledge of the language. After a little more than a week, our Norwegian student appears to be progressing satisfactorily.

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6. Inquiries were made with several components to determine Persian language training requirements in future months. Both NE and [ ] replied that they expect to send us students in September. We also anticipate two or three full-time Swedish students in the fall, and at least one in Greek. Since we are perennially faced with the problem of low student enrollment in these languages, it is gratifying to have notification from the consumer this far in advance.

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7. A special Indonesian class was started this week in the apartment of one of our instructors. The student previously lived in [ ] and had a little knowledge of the language already. The class will go on for a month, and will be followed by another special class in the same location. [ ] enter Agency premises. This increased demand for Indonesian language training is welcome, [ ]

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8. Mr. [ ] of DDS&T visited on Wednesday to discuss the possibility of getting some Russian tapes for a self-study program for people in his unit. As we discussed his needs, it soon became apparent that his problem was that of having people learn to read Russian. We will recommend a course of action to him on a self-study Russian reading program.

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9. [ ] Special Training and Testing Branch, recently visited FSI to exchange ideas on language proficiency testing with the Head of the Testing Unit there, Miss Dorothy Rauscher. The FSI language proficiency program is very similar to ours, except that we use an objectively-scored test to assess reading ability. The FSI, which in the past was quite active in the development of proficiency testing, is not considering any innovations at present. They have an organized program for training testers only in Spanish and French. The impression was that there is little communication among linguists and testers with respect to testing. In the future we plan to discuss with them the possibility of examining our respective testing techniques and evaluation criteria to assure that the two testing units are using the same standards.

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10. Personnel Notes

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a. We finally received word from Security that one of our long-awaited training assistants had been cleared. We expect Mrs. [ ] to report as assistant to the Romance Languages Department the week of 21 June.

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b. Mrs. [ ] became ill at work on Tuesday, apparently suffering from an acute attack of spasms in the colonic area. This later spread to the upper thoracic region. We called an ambulance and had her taken to the emergency room of Arlington Hospital where she was treated and released about two hours later. Mr. [ ] drove her to her home in Gaithersburg. She reported in Wednesday that she was feeling considerably better and expected to return to work on Friday.

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11. On 9 June, at the invitation of the Foreign Languages Department of the U.S. Military Academy, [ ], Chief of the Slavic Department, attended the graduation exercises of the Class of 1971 at which Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird gave the graduation address. During the day at West Point, [ ] visited the Foreign Languages Department and renewed contacts with its members, particularly those in the Russian section.

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12. [ ] of our Spanish faculty is drafting a series of useful sentences for clerical personnel overseas. The package consists of questions and responses in situations such as the following: accepting and placing calls, responding to wrong numbers, asking and giving information and directions, making appointments, taking messages, and receiving visitors in the office. We often have specific requests to equip secretaries with these types of language skills. If the Spanish series works out well, we expect to prepare the same type of material in other languages.

13. In response to a newspaper ad inserted by the Language School for a qualified "native" teacher of both French and Spanish, we received 30 applications. A half dozen of these look very promising, and we will be interviewing them during the coming week.

14. Language School Statistics:

Students and Classes as of the week of 1 - 4 June 1971:

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Students

Full-time - 69  
Part-time - 133 (41 BAHLT)  
(45 Hqs.)  
TOTAL.....202

Classes

Full-time - 34  
Part-time - 49 ( 8 BAHLT)  
(10 Hqs.)  
TOTAL.....83

Laboratory hours for the week of 1 - 4 June 1971:

Language School - 101  
Headquarters - 47

There were 28 proficiency tests given during the week of  
1 - 4 June 1971.



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Acting Chief, Language School

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